

REMARKS

The present paper is submitted in reply to a Final Office Action dated May 12, 2005.

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 11. No new matter has been added.

A. Examiner Interview August 15, 2005

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended to their representative in the Examiner Interview on August 15, 2005. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments and remarks provided herein correspond to those discussed with the Examiner on August 15, 2005.

B. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 4-12 and 14-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Specifically, the Examiner contends that generating an error report is not necessary for providing a gauge table.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's rejection and further assert that the Examiner provides no support for the contention that the claimed subject matter must be necessary for accomplishing the function presented in the preamble. Notwithstanding the Applicants' contention, by the present amendments, the preambles of independent claims 1 and 11 have been amended to further define the claimed methods and systems to include the function of providing an error report. Moreover, as discussed in the Examiner Interview on August 15, 2005, by the present amendment, Applicants have amended the independent claims to further require "using said error report to determine whether either of said header information and said detail information contains one or more errors to be corrected before converting and providing said gauge table." Support for the present amendments can be found on page 9, line 32 to page 10, line 8 of Applicants' written description.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, rejections have been overcome and respectfully request the same be withdrawn.

C. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 4-12 and 14-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,782,339 to Nesser et al. (Nesser) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,718,515 to Conner et al. (Conner) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,943,683 to Yamaguchi (Yamaguchi).

Applicants submit that no combination of Nesser, Conner and Yamaguchi discloses, teaches or otherwise renders obvious "receiving header information including information identifying the railcar," as presently recited in each of Applicants' claims. Support for the present amendments can be found on page 7, lines 17-22 of Applicants' written description.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejections have been overcome and respectfully request the same be withdrawn.

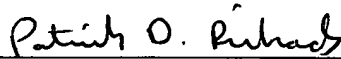
CONCLUSION

Applicants assert that this application is in condition for allowance. Early allowance is respectfully requested.

If for any reason the Examiner is unable to allow the application and feels that an interview would be helpful to resolve any remaining issues, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at (312) 372-2000.

Respectfully submitted,

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